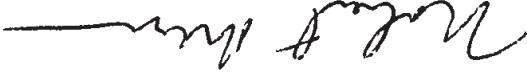


ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director


Sincerely Yours,

If you have any questions regarding this
opinion, please call the undersigned at (305)
579-2594 or Ardyth Walker, Staff General
Counsel at (305) 579-2653.

This opinion constitutes only and is not applicable to any
ordinance conflict under state law. Please contact the
State of Florida Commission on Ethics if you
have any questions regarding possible
conflict of interest and Code of Ethics
conflict of interest and Code of Ethics
ordinance only and is not applicable to any
conflict under state law.

Therefore, the issues raised by this request
are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction.

County Administrative Order 6-7 which
concerns employees access and use of the
internet and email might apply here but does
not directly address the use of the e-mail
system for such purposes. The administrative
order does restrict personal use that
violates personnel or departmental rules.
However, the creation and enforcement of such
politics would be a departmental matter
rather than a legal matter under the conflict
of interest and Code of Ethics ordinance.

Although some sections of the code such as
resources to conduct professional activities.
Section 2-11.1(g) (exploitation of official
position) and 2-11.1(h) (prohibition on use of
confidential information) might apply in some
contexts, those sections are incapable
here.



January 10, 2002

ETHICS COMMISSIONERS

Kerry E. Rosenthal, Chairman
Gail Dotson
Guillermo Grenier
Elizabeth M. Iglesias
Robert H. Newman

ROBERT A. MEYERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MICHAEL P. MURAWSKI
ADVOCATE

ARDYTH WALKER
STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

Irene Nowosad
Chief
Human Resources Division
Department of Water and Sewer
3575 S.LeJeune Road
Coral Gables, FL 33146

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 01-136

Dear Ms. Nowosad:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on January 9, 2002 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding any possible violations of the Conflict of Interest ordinance created by the use of county resources and equipment for the activities of the Miami-Dade Women's Association.

In your letter, you advised the Commission that the Miami-Dade Women's Association is a networking and advocacy group on equal opportunity issues for county employees. The Association is open to all county employees and conduct seminars and monthly luncheon meetings for members. Several employees of the Department of Water and Sewer have used the county's e-mail system to transmit messages regarding group activities. You are concerned that such activity may violate the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance.

The Commission found the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance does not address the use of county time, equipment and